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Enough Of This Nonsense

EX-CIA-AGENT Philip Agee has been afraid to return to the United States. He feared arrest and prosecution because since he flip-flopped and became a Marxist-Leninist he has been spilling U.S. secrets and fingering CIA agents. He has said he wants to destroy the CIA. The CIA has had to spend millions of dollars to transfer and protect agents Agee fingered, but they could not protect them all.

Recently Agee was ordered out of Britain. The British charge that he maintained contacts with foreign intelligence agents and had been involved in activities "that could be harmful to the security of the United Kingdom."

AGEE HAS SAID that he thinks this is related to the arrest of a large number of Western intelligence agents in Poland. He says he is not to blame, but there is no denying that he has put many agents in jeopardy.

On March 21, Ben Civiletti the head of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department, was reported to have informed Agee that he would not be prosecuted under the Espionage Act if he came home. Just two months earlier, Civiletti's predecessor had informed Agee that he might be prosecuted.

SO NOW PHILIP Agee, who has dishonored the oath he swore when he joined the CIA and has put many a CIA agent in jeopardy, is free to come home, become a television personality, and clean up on the college lecture circuit. He can thank Ben Civiletti.

We are not, however, trying to lead you to believe that Civiletti is soft on crime. No sir!

HE RECOMMENDED to the attorney general that charges be brought against FBI agents and other law enforcement officials who in the past have, on orders from superiors, risked their lives to surreptitiously enter offices or homes and tapped telephone lines to obtain information to protect our national security.

Thus, on April 7 of this year an ex-FBI supervisor, John Kearney, who worked diligently to gather information to convict

Weather Underground terrorists, was indicted.

JUST HOW MANY people gave a thought to the idea that the FBI and its informants during the days of riot-instigating terrorist groups which were trying to destroy the freedoms we all enjoy might be prosecuted and sent to jail for their actions by the very government that had ordered and financed their operations?

It seems utterly ridiculous. But not to Ben Civiletti of our Justice Department. He wants to prosecute those who carried out the undercover missions. He wants to prosecute those who gathered the needed information to

combat terrorists such as the Weather Underground and other subversive groups.

GET THE PICTURE?

Philip Agee, the man who spilled his secrets to the world, including the communists, is told that he faces no charges and can return to this country to carry out his nefarious activities. The dedicated FBI agents that were carrying out orders to get the goods on the like of Agee are told that they had better prepare for a long legal battle, because Civiletti wants to throw the book at them and put them in jail.

Another sad commentary on the manner in which our top government officials operate in Washington is the fact that the Justice Department has decided that John Kearney must finance his own legal defense — although he was acting as an FBI agent when he allegedly broke the law.

EVERY AMERICAN should be revolted by this brand of politics in the Justice Department. The time has come for citizens to express their outrage. Cards and letters to President Carter, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500; Attorney General Griffin Bell, Justice Department, Washington, D.C. 20580; your U.S. senators, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, and your U.S. representative, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, expressing outrage at this travesty of justice, might straighten out the thinking of some of our top officials.